

## **Officer Report – Steve Bowers SU President 2007/08**

My time in office has been nothing short of fantastic. From the opening week of training with the rest of Exec, to reporting back to you in February for this AGM, I have done my best to represent the views of the Students of Winchester to any and every body who has asked me. During this time I have been lucky to enough to attend NUS training events such as Active Political Leadership and Action Through Advocacy where I was not only able to learn about this role that I have undertaken and its responsibilities and objectives, but was also able to form a good relationship with many different sabbatical officers from around the country, building an excellent support structure in times of dire need and gathering a wide base of knowledge for the year ahead. Along with Andy and the Exec team we were able to head up a group of hungry and talented volunteers for the Freshers fortnight and, thanks to the great work of the self-proclaimed 'Dream Team', I believe we were able to help many of the first year students settle in to University life. Also during the especially hectic period we moved into the brand new University Centre facility, which despite some nagging issues to begin with, has been a fantastic addition to the student experience at Winchester. Throughout my time as president I have represented Winchester Student Union at a variety of University meetings, such as Senate (the highest academic committee in the University), Student Affairs and Customer Care Committee, Learning and Teaching Committee as well as being a member of the Board of Governors. I have also been involved in working groups for the University such as the widening participation, financial risk assessment and the student centre projects. I have been lucky enough to be involved with the graduation ceremonies (even got to meet Alan Titchmarsh), and also been embraced and taken in as a member of the board of trustees for Winchester's Citizens Advice Bureau. As a representative of students for Winchester I have attended several NUS events, such as Regional Conferences in Bournemouth and Oxford, as well as an extraordinary conference in Leicester to discuss NUS' wide ranging reform and governance review in December 2007, this will all be followed by NUS Annual Conference at the beginning of April. I have been proud to be involved with the Strategic Plan for the Student Union which will continue to push Winchester to the fore front of Student Politics both within NUS and within the wider community. I have been involved with neighbourhood liaison groups and other committees within the local community to try and raise the profile of our Students beyond that of just being loud and untidy, and show them that we are a vital part of this community as well as being essential for the local economy and work force. I have had regular meetings with the Vice-Chancellor to discuss student opinion and any nagging issues that you the students have discussed with me. I have been available for student questions and interests throughout the year, and have been able point many people in the right direction as well as continue to keep those within our venue safe and secure by conducting disciplinary meetings with those who have contravened our code of conduct, but have tried my best to deal with those individuals as fairly as I can. My time in office to date has been an absolute joy, and I would like to say thank you to a few people. Thanks first to the core staff at the Student Union who have provided great support for me and the rest of the team when needed, as

well as all the part-time student (and non-student) staff who have been fantastic with their commitment and enthusiasm. Thanks also to those who volunteered for freshers crew, as well as to all the members of Union Council for providing not only a great atmosphere in meetings but for creating interest and having debates about issues that are important for students today. A special mention has to go to Andrew Hodgson without whom at times this Union would stand still. My biggest thanks go to the Exec team, whether still involved or not, your support, encouragement and constructive criticism have been a constant inspiration to me. So thank you very much to Emily, Olive, Anso, Nicole, Chris and Andy for everything they have done this year and all their hard work. Finally, I have to thank you, the students, for being there to be represented because without you there literally is no Union. I don't think it would be right to complete this report without my traditional quote, but this one has a small difference to normal and is adapted very slightly for my purposes. So to those of you leaving us at the end of this year I say these words,

**“In time, that's all that we're going to be to each other anyway, this population of memories, some wonderful and endearing, some less so. But taken together, those memories help make us who we are and who we will be. So whether you're here with each other now or you're merely in each other's thoughts, remember each other on that road ahead. And I hope that no matter where your travels lead you in this life... you'll always take Winchester with you.”** (Holmes/Bowers, 2001/2008).

Many thanks and best wishes to all of you for the future,

Steve 'Stevo' Bowers  
Student Union President 2007/08